

VZCZCXRO4762  
OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR  
DE RUEHTRO #0134/01 0471631  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 161631Z FEB 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5807  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0263  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0120  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0011  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0085  
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 6365

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TRIPOLI 000134

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO, NEA/MAG AND EUR/ERA; NSC FOR S. AGUIRRE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/16/2020

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [CVIS](#) [PINR](#) [LY](#)

SUBJECT: LIBYA MAKES GOOD ON THREAT TO DECLARE SCHENGEN VISA WAR REF: TRIPOLI 112 TRIPOLI 00000134 001.2 OF 003 CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cretz, P  
1.(C) Summary: The Libyan Government unexpectedly followed through February 13 with threats to suspend visa issuance to nationals of Schengen n  
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION LEADS TO AIRPORT CHAOS

2.(C) Late on February 13, the Libyan Government announced that it was halting issuance of visas to nationals of Schengen member countries, mak

3.(C) On February 16, the situation seemed to have improved somewhat, with only 20 Schengen nationals deported. An EU diplomat attributed the i  
SAIF'S NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCES THE BAN, GOL JUSTIFIES IT

4.(C) The controversial Libyan decision was first announced by the quasi-independent Oea online newspaper (part of Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi's P

5.(C) In a February 15 conversation with Pol/Econ Chief, a TRIPOLI 00000134 002.2 OF 003 close aide and advisor to Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi ass

6.(C) Foreign Minister-equivalent Musa Kusa met Schengen Ambassadors late in the day on February 15 to confirm that no further Libyan visas wou

7.(C) Kusa said that the Libyan Government had implemented the policy after the Swiss had published the list of 188 Libyan citizens on the Swis  
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE BACK STORY

8.(C) An Italian diplomat who briefed us on the Kusa meeting said that no one had been able to verify whether the Swiss veto list had in fact b

9.(C) Swiss Charge Stefano Lazarotto said February 15 that based on readouts that he had received from Bern, the most recent, third round of Ge

10.(C) Until February 13, Lazarotto was positive that Hamdani was on track to receive an exit visa and permission to depart the country -- he b

11.(C) The Libyan Government's move unleashed a barrage of attacks and infighting within the Schengen community. The Austrian Ambassador told t  
COMMENT

12.(C) Libya's escalation of its bilateral dispute with Switzerland came at an unexpected time. The Swiss and Libyans had been moving forward w